

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination which is being filed herewith. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 2, 3 and 5 - 10 and 12 - 22 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claim 13 is being amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention, and new claim 22 is being submitted herewith for consideration. Support for the claim amendments and new claim may be found throughout the specification of this application, including but not limited to page 18, lines 18-23. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this preliminary amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the previous Notice of Allowance, the Examiner indicated that all of claims 2, 3 and 5 - 10 and 12 - 21 were allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants will submit that the amended claim 13 and new claim 22 are similarly distinguishable from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, along with the allowed claims of record.

Conclusion

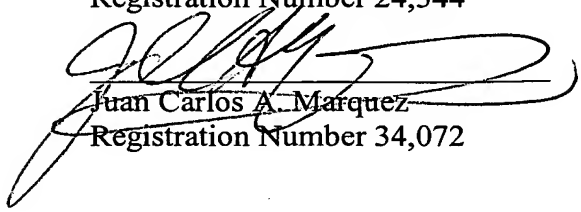
In view of all the above, Applicant respectfully submits that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejection in the Office Action relies. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to

contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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